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Local Groups Issue New Recreation Map for Northern New Hampshire

GROVETON, N.H. (Sept. 29)-- The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and Great North Woods Region Association today released the AMC's new Northern New Hampshire Regional Recreation Map and Guide, a navigational tool that focuses on recreational opportunities in New Hampshire's Great North Woods Region.

The new map marks the first time the entire 665,000-acre region north of Route 110 has been mapped to specifically highlight the diversity of public recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors to the area.

"Not only does this map provide incredible recreational information on the region, it also includes heritage information, contact information for land managers, contact information for all the area chambers of commerce, and information to help make sure that visitors treat the land with respect. We hope everyone in the Great North Woods benefits from this project," said AMC Deputy Director Walter Graff, of Randolph.

The map is free and is being distributed by area chambers of commerce.

Creation of the map was a collaborative project that brought together a diverse group of state and regional organizations, government agencies, landowners, and businesses. The map highlights the many nature-based recreational opportunities in Coos County.

Originally conceived as a map encompassing solely the area directly around the 171,000 acres protected in the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters tracts (formerly owned by Champion International and International Paper), the map was expanded to include all the major backcountry recreation lands north of Route 110 from Groveton to Milan. The project was expanded following a recommendation made by N.H. Rep. Fred King early in the process. "As soon as I learned of this, I thought it was a great idea, but they weren't thinking big enough...I'm glad they were able to expand the map and make it something that could bring together so many communities," said Rep. King.

“The map includes information and guidelines on responsible recreation, emphasizing that we all share a responsibility for protecting the special values that make this region an ideal recreation destination,” said AMC Conservation Advocate Bruce Clendenning. “Some of the most important information for visitors on this map is about how people can enjoy the great opportunities in the region while respecting the land and landowners,” Clendenning said.

“This was an exciting project that allowed us to use our map-making expertise to create a map with a lot of great information, and a map we hope will be useful for the communities of the Great North Woods region. We couldn’t have done this without so many excellent partners from throughout the Great North Woods,” he said.

Early meetings with members of the region’s chambers of commerce, the Great North Woods Association, and the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizen Committee helped to determine the scope of the mapping project. The AMC then consulted with the many public and private landowners and land managers in the region to determine the opportunities for tourism and nature-based recreation.

With the initial on-the-ground data gathered, AMC’s cartographer Larry Garland began compiling the necessary digital mapping data. After several rounds of review, a final version of the map was completed.

“Because of the generous support of the Northern New Hampshire Foundation, the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, and Wausau Paper, we’re able to provide a really excellent product to thousands of residents and visitors to the region at no cost to them,” Clendenning noted.

Creation of the map was made possible by generous funding from the Northern New Hampshire Foundation and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, with a considerable donation of resources from Wausau Papers in Groveton. Thanks to this support, distribution of the map was increased from an anticipated 2,500 copies to approximately 9,000. The maps will initially be provided to the four chambers of commerce active in the area: the North Country Chamber, the Umbagog Chamber, the Northern White Mountain Chamber, and the Northern Gateway Chamber. Interested residents and prospective visitors to the Great North Woods region may request copies of the map from the chambers of commerce.

Founded in 1876, the AMC is the nation’s oldest conservation and recreation organization. The AMC promotes the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the mountains, rivers, and trails of the Appalachian region.